

Have unchecked theft. Love not
yourselves; away:
Rob one another. There's more gold :
Cut throats;
All that you meet are thieves: To
Athens, go,
Break open shops; nothing can you steal

⁴
⁵
But thieves do lose it: Steal not less ⁵_a
for this
I give you; and gold confound you
howsoever!

Amen. *[TIMON retires to his
Cave,*

3 *THIEF.* He has almost charmed me
from my profession, by persuading me
to it.

1 *THIEF.* Tis in the malice of mankind,
that he
thus advises us ; ~not to have us thrive in
our mys
tery⁶.

2 *THIEF.* Ill believe him as an enemy,
and give
over my trade.

1 *THIEF.* Let us first see peace in
Athens: There is no time so miserable,
but a man may be true⁷.

[Exeunt Thieves.

was John Southern, as appears from the only copy
of his Poems that has hitherto been discovered.
He is mentioned by Drayton in one of his Odes.
See also the European Magazine^ for June 1778.

STEEVENS.

*— by a COMPOSTURE —] i. e. composition,
compost.

STEEVENS.

3 The laws, your curb and whip,] So, in Measure
for Measure :

"-----most biting *laws*,

" The needful *bits* and *curbs* for headstrong
steeds."

MALONE.

*— nothing can you steal,] To complete the
measure I would
read:

<° — *where* nothing can you steal —."

STEEVENS.

5— Steal NOT less,] *Not*, which was
accidentally omitted in
the old copy, was inserted by Mr. Rowe.

MALONE.

3 <sup>Tis in the malice of mankind, that he thus advises us ; not to
have us thrive in our mystery.] The reason of his advice, says
the Thief, is *malice to mankind*, not any kindness to us, or desire
to have us thrive in our mystery.</sup> JOHNSON.

4 Let us first see peace in Athens : There is no
time so miser
able, but a man may be true.] [Dr. Warburton
divides this line
between the two thieves.] This and the
concluding little speech

have in all the editions been placed to one speaker:
But, it is evident, the latter words ought to be put in the mouth
of the *second*
Thief, who is repenting, and leaving off his trade.
WARBURTON.